9 April 1968

Nothing But the Facts on UFOs

or

Which Novosti Writer Do You Read?

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a. "Unidentified Flying Objects" by Felix Zigel, Doctor of Science (Technology), Assistant Professor, Moscow Aviation Institute, appearing in the February 1968 issue of Soviet Life (counterpart to USIA's America) for which APN supplies all materials; and

b. "'Flying Saucers'? They're a Myth!" by Villen Lyustiberg, APN Science Commentator, which originally appeared in the 16 February 1968 issue of Moskovsky Komsomolets, and which APN released in English translation on 12 March 1968.

The first article takes UFOs quite seriously; the second laughs them off and even claims the U.S. publicizes them to divert people from its failures and aggressions.

2. It is not surprising that two writers take opposing views on so controversial a subject, or that one adds a dollop of propaganda. It is surprising to find any disagreement on any subject in Soviet media, especially in materials made available by the same agency to approximately the same readership. The irony is obvious.

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4.

3 Attachments
2 unclassified articles (para 1)
1

Tuesday, March 12, 1...

"FLYING SAUCERS"? THEY'RE A MYTH!

Villen Lyustiberg; APN Science Commentator

In the last 20 years publicatio of literature on "unidentified flying objects" has advanced to one of the first places in the world. This problem is dealt with by numerous associations and clubs.

Are these "flying saucers" just imagination or reality?. Thousands of recorded statements by eye-witnesses seem to show that "there must be something in it". But let us try to look all these materials from a different stand. So, as the convinced supporter of the "saucer" theory say almost ever time, you can draw your own conclusion while we give you.

"Facts Only"

Kenneth Arnold, an American pilot, is the "godfather" of flying saucers. It w he who noticed in 1947 nine shining discs flying in formation at the speed of about 3,000 km an hour.

The next encounter with saucers had a tragic outcome. In January 1948, an immense flying saucer appeared over the Nox US Air Base. Pursuing it Captain Thomas Manthell perished. The last thing he reported from an altitude of 9,000 metres was that he saw an object and was going to approach it.

This story found extensive response. Many considered it to be a stern warnin of unknown envoys from other planets to leave them alone. There was a great deal of a talk about the mysterious death of the pilot. It was received as undoubted proof of the existence of mighty forces still unknown to us.

But the results of a thorough investigation by US authorities received much less publicity. The mysterious "saucer" proved to be nothing but a thin-walled plastic balloon made by US Naval Forces under the secret "Skyhawk Operation" project.

Such balloons could rise to an altitude of 30,000 metres. Meanwhile, Thomas Manthell pursuing it, forgot that he had no oxygen apparatus on board his craft.

We know of stories about encounters and even hand-to-hand fights with pilots of craft landing from other planets. They were shot at, but without success.

A saucer out down a tree on the Amazon River shore and disappeared in the turbid stream. It was never recovered. Another saucer glided over the earth like

an injured bird and almost crashed before the eyes of witnesses. But "having spit out" several pieces of metal, it levelled out its course and flew off. Delivered to the police, the metal proved to be ordinary tin.

An abandoned silvery disc was found in the deep rock-coal seams in Norwegian coal mines on Spitzbergen. It was pierced and marked by micrometeor impacts and bore all traces of having performed a long space voyage. It was sent for analysis to the Pentagon and disappeared there.

Nothing but a saucer put out of commission a high-voltage power transmission line in 1965 and thus plunged several large American cities into darkness for six hours.

But the most thrilling masterpiece of this sort was probably the "Interview with a Man from Venus" published at the close of 1967 by the West German Stern magazine. This materialized blue-eyed "superman", a version of Nietzsche's "blond beast", proved to be a secret service agent of the Pentagon. He was 190 cm tall, spoke excellent English (it was English indeed!) and could breathe freely in our atmosphere without any devices. His modest fibre suitcase contained an unusual silvery suit, flexible like silk and so hard that a diamond drill broke off it.

The man from Venus said that he could walk freely in such a suit over the surface of the hottest stars, ignoring all powerful gravitational fields.

Maybe these "facts" will do?

How Can They Be Studied?

It is easier to ask this question, than to answer it. These flying saucers -- they are like Our Lady: they appear to those who believe in them. And they persistently fail to show themselves to air observation posts, meteorologists and astronomers, i.e. precisely to those who can give us accurate information and trustworthy descriptions of a flying object.

Experiments that do not repeat themselves, or the chance appearance of a phenomenon always either handicap the possibility of investigation considerably or exclude it altogether.

Nowhere in the world is there EVEN ONE trustworthy stereoscopic photograph making it possible to trace from two points simultaneously the outlines of a solid flying object clearly. All photographs that exist have been made with single-lens cameras and always leave a margin for doubt.

A series of such photographs amazingly resembles a straw hat with a black silk ribbon, thrown into the air. Others undoubtedly prove to be internegatives obtained from two combined slides, for instance, that of a landscape and that of a strangely designed craft drawn on white paper. Modern photographing techniques allow photographs to be produced which no expert will ever prove to be counterfeit. They are real. But they do not show strangers from space; they show quite ordinary earthly objects unexpectedly foreshortened -- pots, pans, plastic toys, and the like.

Are there photographs which evoke no doubts whatsoever? Yes, there are. They always show shining objects of a circular or oval shape with vague outlines. Most

likely these photographs show ball lightning. Incidentally, the nature of the lat has not been fully elucidated yet either, due to the vagueness of the place and ti of its formation. However, no one ever thought of ascribing a cosmic origin to it

Even with a superficial analysis, mysterious flares on clouds proved to be reflections of electric welding, warning lights of airplanes in the area of airpor or distant summer lightning. And the November 1967 "saucer" over Sofia proved to l a high-altitude NATO reconnaissance balloon.

Among the most serious works devoted to an investigation of the problem, there are two which ought to be mentioned. One of them is the book "Flying Saucers" by Donald Menzel who explains almost all cases of their appearance by disturbances in the Earth's or Sun's atmosphere. Our planet travels in the upper layers of the Sur atmosphere where clots of high-temperature plasma are moving freely.

The other is a book by Frank Edwards. It is a collection of statements, notes and records of eye-witness testimony classified into several sections. True, Edwar often qualifies his source as a witness who did not wish to have his name mentioned but who may be fully trusted, or that the trustworthiness of the witness is confirmed by numerous of his countrymen, but he cannot mention his name so far for a number of reasons. That's not very convincing, is it?

For Whom Is It Not a Myth?

They are those for whom science is a business. Taking advantage of the lively interest of people for everything that is strange and unusual, numerous lecturers in the West appear before audiences with reports and stories, invite eye-witnesses to such lectures, and demonstrate photographs and slides. Most of these lecturers are nothing but ordinary quacks. True, there are people who are sincerely convinced in the truth of what they are talking about. They strive to draw the interest of the public to certain phenomena but, we are sorry to say, there is more harm than use in that.

The Americans Lesly and Adamski are the most outright frauds among them. Using their "good friendly relations" with strangers from other planets, the enterprising businessmen "visited" Mars, the Moon and Venus, learned from our cosmic neighbours to treat by simple and accessible methods such diseases as cancer, glaucoma, hypertension and others which afflict the human race. Their lectures, motion-pictures, books and medical practice have brought them many hundred thousand dollars out of the pockets of trusting listeners and patients already.

We may trace a clearly defined regularity in the appearance of large numbers of flying saucers. And, strange as it might seem, this regularity is closely connected with earthly events.

The first "cycle" of four years began in 1947. The number of saucers always grows sharply on the eve of presidential elections in the USA. This is difficult to explain. Maybe people on other planets lay bets as to who will win in the next elections -- the republicans or the democrats. Perhaps, these saucers appear in order to divert the voters' thoughts from the again non-fulfilled presidential programme and promises to make the country a "great" and "prospering" society.

There is another cycle. True, it is not determined by time. Saucers flooded the earth's atmosphere in 1951, in the months when the American troops were waging a ruthless, annihilating war against the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

The next invasion of saucers was in 1965-1966, when 35 American advisers in South Vietnam were quickly replaced by half-a-million-strong army equipped with the latest arms and intending to rout the National-Liberation Front within two weeks and when the President of the United States of America, without declaring war and in violation the constitution of his own country, gave the order that the peaceful population of North Vietnam be subjected to brutal bombings.

In short, when newspaper circulation drops, when readers get tired of economics and politics and when they are to be diverted from "irrelevant" questions, the Western businessmen resort to three reliable, "always fresh" sensations: Flying Saucers, the Sea Serpent (sometimes it is substitued by the Loch Ness Lake monster), and the Snow Man.

It is much nicer to read about mysterious craft from Venus than to think of the future, of the wage freeze, of growing prices or unemployment. Statesmen in imperia ist countries resort to this "information" quite deliberately. For them the flying saucers are not a myth, but a well-camouflaged means for misinforming the people. And nothing but that.

(Moskovsky Komsomolets, February 16. In ful

THE END

VIE LIFE
FEBRUARY 1968

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

By Felix Zigel
Doctor of Science (Technology)
Assistant Professor,
Moscow Aviation Institute

First the facts: several striking and reliable UFO observations; and then, conclusions.

First Account

THE PLACE of observation is Kazakhstan, the field camp of a geophysical expedition from a Leningrad research institute. The nearest populated locality, Koktal, is 11 miles away. The time of observation is August 16, 1966, about 11 P.M. local time.

According to M[...]ter of Geology and Mineralogy Nikolai [...]chevanov, the camp chief, a strange, luminous body suddenly appeared over the mountains on the eastern slope of the valley. It was moving from north to south, and its visible diameter was one and a half times longer than the Moon's.

A few seconds later the body disappeared behind a mountain top, reappeared and headed southeast, keeping constant speed and height above the Earth. The mysterious object was lens-shaped and bright, the edges being somewhat less luminous than the center.

The body described an arc in the sky and disappeared behind the mountains, leaving no trace.

The unidentified flying object (UFO) was observed by eight scientific workers, members of the geophysical expedition.

Second Account

On July 26, 1965, Latvian astronomers Robert Vitolniek, Yan Melderis and Esmeralda Vitolniek were studying noctilucent clouds at an observation station at Ogra. At 9:35 P.M. they noticed an unusually bright star moving slowly in a westerly direction. Looked at through binoculars with a magnification of eight diameters, the "star" resolved itself into a small, flat speck. The telescope then disclosed the following incredible picture.

In the heart of a lens-shaped disc, which the astronomers estimated to be about 325 feet across, was clearly evident a thickened part, a small sphere. Around the disc, at a distance of two diameters, were three spheres resembling the one in the center. The spheres slowly rotated around the disc as the entire system diminished in size, gradually leaving the Earth. Some 15 to 20 minutes later the spheres began to move away from the disc, as if receding in different directions. The sphere in the center also left its place and moved away. Finally, at 10 P.M. all these

On August 2, 1967, at 11:30 P.M. Moscow time, while crossing the Norwegian Sea in a westerly direction, *Izhersk* sailors witnessed this unusual phenomenon, said the radiogram:

"There were three of us in the cabin—Captain Markov, Senior Engineer Ivanov and myself. Sysoyev, ne[...]r on duty, reported a strange phenome[...]n the sky. We ran to the bridge and saw a sphere-like whitish spot moving southward.

"A few minutes later a bright spot flared up high in the sky. For a couple of seconds it rushed headlong from west to east at an angle of 45 degrees to the Earth, getting much larger. Suddenly it came to a stop and with a play of bright rainbow colors (yellow predominating) began throwing off sparks and became enveloped in a white shroud.

"Once again the sphere-like white nebula began moving south. The procedure was repeated four times. On the fifth and last time the spot's behavior changed. It stopped midway, turned over and assumed the shape of an *egg* with the thicker end up. Then a powerful white jet squirted from the lower end, after which the 'egg' grew pale, became enveloped in white mist and, with its white tail, began to head southward."

All this strange celestial activity was visible for an hour and then vanished into thin air.

Fourth Account

Not one but several reports came from astronomers at the Mountain Astrophysical Station, USSR Academy of Sciences, 12 miles from Kislovodsk, Caucasus.

In July 1967 the station received letters from local newspapers reporting the flight of a strange reddish crescent across the sky at 9:20 P.M. on July 17.

In the very early morning of July 18, 1967, astronomer H. I. Potter, who was observing the Moon at the Mountain Station, noticed a strange formation against a clear starry sky at 2:50 A.M. Moscow time. A white cloud appeared in the northeast at an elevation of about 20 degrees. Its diameter was twice as long as that of the Moon but its nose was several times less bright.

The cloud itself had a dense milky-white color, with a rosy-red nucleus clearly discernible near its northern end. The cloud expanded and grew paler. A few minutes later the white cloud dispersed completely, but the reddish nucleus remained. Toward daybreak it lost its outlines and then disappeared. Photographs showing its changes were taken.

At 8:40 P.M. on August 8, 1967, at the

opeya in half a minute. A bright star of the first magnitude was moving at a constant distance ahead of the crescent.

As it moved away from the observers, the crescent dwindled, turned into a small disc and then instantly disappeared.

The mysterious object was seen by 10 of the station's scientific workers. It was also observed in Kislovodsk. According to Sazarov, the crescent was 12 miles away, and it was no less than 500 feet across.

Optical Illusion?

Let us stop here and draw some conclusions. Even if all the UFO evidence amounted to no more than these four accounts, it is clear that the evidence exists. The fact of the matter is, however, that many thousands of such observations have been documented in the past 20 years. They come from dozens of countries and virtually every corner of our planet, including the Arctic and Antarctic. The UFO phenomenon is too widespread and popularly accepted to be dismissed lightly.

A growing number of serious scientists are not satisfied with explanations characterizing the sightings as visual aberrations. It goes without saying that the phenomenon attracts, and will unfortunately continue to, all sorts of publicity-seekers. But we do not stop using money because there are counterfeiters. The task of science is, precisely, the obligation to distinguish between the false and the true.

Thus, if science considers flying saucers a hallucination, it still must explain the cause of this global psychic illness. That may well be as difficult to establish as the true nature of UFOs.

The well-known American astrophysicist Donald Menzel says that flying saucers are optical phenomena in the Earth's atmosphere. Because of Professor Menzel's scientific prestige the explanation is generally accepted. But it does not hold water. As soon as we go on from this generalization to concrete interpretations of concrete observations, it becomes evident that UFOs will not reduce themselves to optical phenomena of the mirage, rainbow or halo type. Try the Menzel explanation on the four accounts we cited earlier. Nothing intelligible will emerge. What we seem to be dealing with here is a kind of reality still unexplored.

The appearance of UFOs is almost always accompanied by a luminescence of air and the formation of an atmospheric plasma. This fact is the basis for the "plasma" hypothesis of UFOs as accumulations of atmospheric plasma of the ball lightning type. But this explanation does not hold up either. Ball lightning is always a thunderstorm product, and

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This strange picture was observed in the northwestern part of the sky at about 60 degrees above the horizon. The astronomers estimated that the enigmatic objects were about 60 miles above the Earth.

Third Account

A long radiogram arrived at the office of the magazine *Smena*, for which I had written an article on UFOs. It was sent by First Mate Barbashin on behalf of the crew of the Soviet ship *Izhevsk*.

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At 8:40 P.M. on August 8, 1967, at the same Mountain Station astronomer Anatoli Sazanov observed an unfamiliar flying object. It was shaped like an asymmetrical crescent, with its convex side turned in the direction of its movement. Narrow, faintly luminous ribbons resembling the condensation trail of a jet plane followed behind the horns of the crescent. Its diameter was two-thirds that of the Moon, and it was not as bright. It was yellow with a reddish tinge.

The object was flying horizontally in the northern part of the sky, from west to east, at about 20 degrees above the horizon. It covered the distance from Ursa Major to Cassiopeia ... first magnitude was moving at a constant distance ahead of the crescent.

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Saucers and Balls

To find a clue to the nature of UFOs, we must study all the reports on these surprising and, to my mind, real objects. Only a scientific analysis will reveal the truth. What is, however, clear already is that UFO phenom-

enon can be objectively analyzed and classified. The UFO classification adopted by foreign investigators is also confirmed by Soviet observers.

By day, when observed from Earth or planes, UFOs appear as bright discs with a metallic tinge. Assistant Professor Vyacheslav Zaitsev observed such a flying saucer in 1961, above Bologoye, from a TU-104 aircraft making a scheduled flight. The huge bright metal disc slid under the liner's belly, made a turn and at some distance took a course parallel with the aircraft. A bulging core resembling a cabin could be seen in the heart of the disc. After flying alongside the plane for several seconds, it swerved abruptly and disappeared.

A similar object was observed by geodetic astronomer Lyudmila Tsekhanovich in the summer of 1965 near Sukhumi, Caucasus. The UFO made a swift maneuver over the sea, then headed for the mountains. The astronomer was, however, able to see that the central protruding part of the disc had holes which seemed to be lit from the inside.

UFO movements are peculiar. Sometimes they hover over the earth for tens of minutes. In flight they can develop incredible speeds and accelerations.

At 9:45 on the evening of June 17, 1966, on the outskirts of Enlista a team of geophysicists from the Institute of Oil and Gas Industry, Volgograd, led by V. G. Krylov, noticed a reddish object moving across the sky. It was shaped like a small disc.

Suddenly the body began to fall swiftly along a helical trajectory, its reddish color changing to bright white-blue. Then there was a sort of flare, and instead of the body a bright-blue round cloud appeared. It quickly spread out and melted away.

Depending on the viewing angle, flying discs look flattened or cigar-shaped or spherical. In some cases a UFO appears as a crescent, turning into a disc before your eyes.

The belief that UFOs are real is also borne out by the fact that these enigmatic objects are not only visible to the naked eye, but leave distinct images on photographic plates and are recorded by such impartial "witnesses" as radar screens.

Air Force Major Baidukov, on a night mission above the Odessa Region on April 4, 1966, noticed on the screen of his plane's radar a strange object which was also spotted by ground-based radar units. Within 15 minutes the object dropped from 31 to 19 miles, in the next quarter of an hour to 15 miles, and in the next 10 minutes to 11 miles. The UFO remained unidentified.

Maneuver and Pursuit

The well-known Soviet pilot, chief navigator of Soviet polar aviation Valentin Akkuratov, describes one of his encounters with flying discs:

"In 1956, engaged in strategic ice reconnaissance in a TU-4 plane in the area of Cape Jesup (Greenland), we dropped down from the clouds to fair weather and suddenly noticed an unknown flying craft moving on our portside parallel to our course. It looked very much like a large pearl-colored lens with

in the blue sky. We spotted no aerials, superstructure, wings or portholes on that disc. Nor did we see an exhaust gases or condensation trail. It flew at what seemed to us an impossible speed."

No Prejudices

Until recently no scientific study of UFOs has been made in the Soviet Union. More than that, the prevailing and, in my opinion, mistaken view was that UFOs are common optical phenomena in the Earth's atmosphere. There was no collection of UFO observations, and the general impression was that flying saucers are fantasies. The situation now is changing.

In 1968 the Nauka Publishing House of the USSR Academy of Sciences is scheduled to bring out a book titled *Populated Outer Space*, edited by Academician Boris Konstantinov, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The distinguished Soviet and foreign contributors include: Academicians Victor Ambartsumyan, Alexander Oparin, Alexander Imshenetsky, Andrei Kolmogorov; Corresponding Members of the USSR Academy of Sciences Vasili Kuprevich, Alexander Vologdin, Iosif Shklovsky; and eminent foreign scientists Melvin Calvin, William Pickering, Frank Salisbury (USA), Norman Pirie, Bernard Lovell (Great Britain), Hans Freudenthal (Netherlands), Giuseppe Piccardi (Italy) and many others.

The anthology will have a special section devoted to the UFO problem, with contributions from American scientists Joseph Hynek, James McDonald, Jack Valley, and Frank Salisbury, articles by Soviet writers and UFO observations made in the Soviet Union.

Soviet observations of UFOs, like those I cited earlier, were not taken from a systematic collection of information of this kind; they were spontaneous responses to my article in Smena. This fact warrants the conclusion that there have been many more UFO observations in the USSR. We have already collected some dozens of well-documented reports and accounts.

In May 1967 a sponsoring group of scientists, the military, writers and public figures met to form an unofficial body whose purpose it would be to conduct a preliminary scientific investigation of UFOs. Those present included Professor Heinrich Ludwig; Doctors of Science Nikolai Zhirov and Igor Bestuzhev-Lada; chief navigator of Soviet polar aviation Valentine Akkuratov; Generals Porfiri Stolyarov, Leonid Reino, Georgi Uger and Georgi Zevalkin; twice Hero of the Soviet Union Grigori Sivkov, Master of Science (engineering); Heroes of the Soviet Union docent Yekaterina Ryabova and Natalia Kravtsova.

The organization, set up October 1967, is called the UFO Section of the All-Union Cosmonautics Committee, with headquarters at the Central House of Aviation and Cosmonautics in Moscow. Air Force Major General Porfiri Stolyarov was elected chairman of the section.

Those of us who are participating in this new and exciting undertaking have an ambitious program of work ahead. The first step [illegible] the collection of reliable

nature of UFOs in terms of familiar phenomena. Judging by other surprises, nature has some in store for us here too, and we must be ready for perhaps a radical "reassessment of values."

The hypothesis that UFOs originate in other worlds, that they are flying craft from planets other than Earth, merits the most serious examination.

Observations show that UFOs behave "sensibly." In a group formation flight they maintain a pattern. They are most often spotted over airfields, atomic stations and other very new engineering installations. On encountering aircraft, they always maneuver so as to avoid direct contact. A considerable list of these seemingly intelligent actions gives the impression that UFOs are investigating, perhaps even reconnoitering.

Curiously enough, the number of UFO observations increases as Mars approaches the Earth. Is that pure coincidence?

Some people think that UFOs have appeared in the Earth's atmosphere only during the past two decades. This is not the case. The UFO phenomenon has been observed throughout the history of mankind. There are medieval and ancient reports strikingly similar to ours.

Among the earlier UFO reports, as an example, may be the well-documented observations of a "large saucer" in 1882 and a "procession of bolides" in 1913. These reports still await investigation.

The most remarkable UFO phenomenon is the famous "Tungusky meteorite." In recent years Soviet scientists have established that the Tungusky explosion had every parameter of an air nuclear blast. *The USSR Academy of Sciences Reports* (Volume 172, Nos. 4 and 5, 1967) have studies by Alexei Zolotov to prove that the Tungusky body could not be a meteorite or a comet.

In the summer of 1967 the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research at Dubna published a study by Vladimir Mekhedov, who concludes that the Tungusky blast left considerable residual radioactivity. Finally, as recently as 1966, after analyzing the sum total of observations on the Tungusky body's flight, this writer showed that before the blast the Tungusky body described in the atmosphere a tremendous arc of about 375 miles in extent (in azimuth), that is, carried out a maneuver.

All these new results warrant the conclusion that the Tungusky body seems to have been an artificial flying craft from some other planet.

Should this be finally confirmed by investigations now in progress, the significance of the Tungusky disaster would be inestimable.

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After flying alongside the plane for several seconds, it swerved abruptly and disappeared.

A similar object was observed by geodetic astronomer Lyudmila Tsekhanovich in the summer of 1965 near Sukhumi, Caucasus. The UFO made a swift maneuver over the sea, then headed for the mountains. The astronomer was, however, able to see that the central protruding part of the disc had holes which seemed to be lit from the inside.

UFO movements are peculiar. Sometimes they hover over the earth for tens of minutes. In flight they can develop incredible speeds and accelerations.

At 9:45 on the evening of June 17, 1966, on the outskirts of Elista a team of geophysicists from the Institute of Oil and Gas Industry, Volgograd, led by V. G. Krylov, noticed a reddish object moving across the sky. It was shaped like a small disc.

Suddenly the body began to fall swiftly along a helical trajectory, its reddish color changing to bright white-blue. Then there was a sort of flare, and instead of the body a bright-blue round cloud appeared. It quickly spread out and melted away.

Depending on the viewing angle, flying discs look flattened or cigar-shaped or spherical. In some cases a UFO appears as a crescent, turning into a disc before your eyes.

The belief that UFOs are real is also borne out by the fact that these enigmatic objects are not only visible to the naked eye, but leave distinct images on photographic plates and are recorded by such impartial "witnesses" as radar screens.

Air Force Major Baidukov, on a night mission above the Odessa Region on April 4, 1966, noticed on the screen of his plane's radar a strange object which was also spotted by ground-based radar units. Within 15 minutes the object dropped from 31 to 13 miles, in the next quarter of an hour to 15 miles, and in the next 10 minutes to 11 miles. The UFO remained unidentified.

Maneuver and Pursuit

The well-known Soviet pilot, chief navigator of Soviet polar aviation Valentin Akkuratov, describes one of his encounters with flying discs:

"In 1956, engaged in strategic ice reconnaissance in a TU-4 plane in the area of Cape Jesup (Greenland), we dropped down from the clouds to fair weather and suddenly noticed an unknown flying craft moving on our portside parallel to our course. It looked very much like a large pearl-colored lens with wavy, pulsating edges. At first we thought it was an American aircraft of an unknown design, and since we did not want to encounter it we went into the clouds again. After we had flown for 40 minutes toward Bear Island, the cloud cover ended abruptly, it cleared ahead and on our portside we saw once again that same unknown craft. Making up our minds to see it at close quarters, we changed our course abruptly and began the approach movement, informing our base at Amderma of the maneuver. When we changed our course, the unknown flying machine followed suit and moved parallel at our speed.

"After 15 to 18 minutes of flight the unknown craft sharply altered its course, sped ahead of us and rose quickly until it disappeared

changing.

In 1968 the Nauka Publishing House of the USSR Academy of Sciences is scheduled to bring out a book titled *Populated Outer Space*, edited by Academician Boris Konstantinov, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The distinguished Soviet and foreign contributors include: Academicians Victor Ambartsumyan, Alexander Oparin, Alexander Imshenetsky, Andrei Kolmogorov; Corresponding Members of the USSR Academy of Sciences Vasili Kuprevich, Alexander Velogdin, Iosif Shklovsky; and eminent foreign scientists Melvin Calvin, William Pickering, Frank Salisbury (USA), Norman Pirie, Bernard Lovell (Great Britain), Hans Freudenthal (Netherlands), Giuseppe Piccardi (Italy) and many others.

The anthology will have a special section devoted to the UFO problem, with contributions from American scientists Joseph Hynek, James McDonald, Jack Valley, and Frank Salisbury, articles by Soviet writers and UFO observations made in the Soviet Union.

Soviet observations of UFOs, like those I cited earlier, were not taken from a systematic collection of information of this kind: they were spontaneous responses to my article in *Smena*. This fact warrants the conclusion that there have been many more UFO observations in the USSR. We have already collected some dozens of well-documented reports and accounts.

In May 1967 a sponsoring group of scientists, the military, writers and public figures met to form an unofficial body whose purpose it would be to conduct a preliminary scientific investigation of UFOs. Those present included Professor Heinrich Ludwig; Doctors of Science Nikolai Zhirov and Igor Bestuzhev-Lada; chief navigator of Soviet polar aviation Valentine Akkuratov; Generals Porfiri Stolyarov, Leonid Reino, Georgi Uger and Georgi Zevakin; twice Hero of the Soviet Union Grigori Sivkov, Master of Science (engineering); Heroes of the Soviet Union docent Yekaterina Ryabova and Natalia Kravtsova.

The organization, set up October 1967, is called the UFO Section of the All-Union Cosmonautics Committee, with headquarters at the Central House of Aviation and Cosmonautics in Moscow. Air Force Major General Porfiri Stolyarov was elected chairman of the section.

Those of us who are participating in this new and exciting undertaking have an ambitious program of work ahead. The first step will be to organize the collection of reliable information on UFOs. That will be done at the outset by the existing systems of astronomical, meteorological and geophysical observatories, satellite and space-rocket tracking stations and the radar installations of civilian airports and the hydro-meteorological service. All these organizations can make UFO observations with equipment now available.

In the design stage are special devices for photographing UFOs and recording the radiation and magnetic disturbances which they may be responsible for.

Guests from Other Worlds?

The recorded observations will serve to check hypotheses. These hypotheses should not, in my opinion, attempt to explain the

ing aircraft, they always maneuver so as to avoid direct contact. A considerable list of these seemingly intelligent actions gives the impression that UFOs are investigating, perhaps even reconnoitering.

Curiously enough, the number of UFO observations increases as Mars approaches the Earth. Is that pure coincidence?

Some people think that UFOs have appeared in the Earth's atmosphere only during the past two decades. This is not the case. The UFO phenomenon has been observed throughout the history of mankind. There are medieval and ancient reports strikingly similar to ours.

Among the earlier UFO reports, as an example, may be the well-documented observations of a "large saucer" in 1882 and a "procession of bolides" in 1913. These reports still await investigation.

The most remarkable UFO phenomenon is the famous "Tungusky meteorite." In recent years Soviet scientists have established that the Tungusky explosion had every parameter of an air nuclear blast. *The USSR Academy of Sciences Reports* (Volume 172, Nos. 4 and 5, 1967) have studies by Alexei Zolotov to prove that the Tungusky body could not be a meteorite or a comet.

In the summer of 1967 the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research at Dubna published a study by Vladimir Mekhedov, who concludes that the Tungusky blast left considerable residual radioactivity. Finally, as recently as 1966, after analyzing the sum total of observations on the Tungusky body's flight, this writer showed that before the blast the Tungusky body described in the atmosphere a tremendous arc of about 375 miles in extent (in azimuth), that is, carried out a maneuver.

All these new results warrant the conclusion that the Tungusky body seems to have been an artificial flying craft from some other planet.

Should this be finally confirmed by investigations now in progress, the significance of the Tungusky disaster would be inestimable.

But this, incidentally, will pose new problems. If we are indeed being studied by creatures from other planets, what is their purpose? Why are they so studiously avoiding any direct contact? Is their unsociability the result of so high a level of development that they study us from that "height" just as we look upon and study ants? Or is there still the possibility of common understanding since we are born in the same Universe and obey the same laws of nature?

Yes, there will be many questions, but all are in the distant future. Our study of UFOs may lead to quite different conclusions and present mankind with quite different problems.

The important thing now is for us to discard any preconceived notions about UFOs and to organize on a global scale a calm, sensation-free and strictly scientific study of this strange phenomenon. The subject and aims of the investigation are so serious that they justify any efforts. It goes without saying that international cooperation is vital.